

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims:

1-4. (Cancelled).

5. (Currently amended) A method as recited in claim ~~[[1]]~~ 27 wherein a particular device is assigned to multiple groups.

6. (Currently amended) A method as recited in claim ~~[[1]]~~ 25 wherein the one or more event handling ~~policies~~ policy defines how the device is configured identify the event data that are subscribed by the plurality of event consumers.

7. (Cancelled).

8. (Currently amended) A method as recited in claim ~~[[1]]~~ 25 wherein the method is implemented by a management module.

9-18. (Cancelled).

19. (Currently amended) One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim ~~[[18]]~~ 31 wherein a particular device is assigned to multiple groups of devices.

20. (Currently amended) One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim ~~[[18]]~~ 30 wherein the one or more event-handling ~~[[policy]]~~ policies further ~~defines~~ the type of event data that is provided to each device identify the event data that are subscribed by the plurality of event consumers.

21-23. (Cancelled).

24. (Currently amended) ~~[[The computer-implemented]]~~ A method as recited in Claim ~~[[21]]~~ 28, wherein the ~~[[current states represent]]~~ event log further comprises ~~[[at least one of]]~~ a version of an operating system, a location in a geographic region, a configuration of the system, presence of a particular hardware item, or capacity of a particular hardware item.

25. (New) A method comprising:

receiving all event data generated by a plurality of event providers in a network and all inquiries requesting the event data from a plurality of event consumers, the event providers and event consumers comprising different components in the network, wherein the event data is represented in a common data format regardless of which event provider

generates the event data, and wherein the inquiries comprise the event data subscribed by the plurality of event consumers;

determining, in accordance with one or more event handling policies, whether the event data is subscribed by the plurality of event consumers; and

sending the event data to the plurality of event consumers that subscribe the event data, wherein the event data is represented in the same common data format as it is generated by the plurality of event providers.

26. (New) A method as recited in claim 25, further comprising:

creating the one or more event handling policies at least in part on the basis of the inquiries subscribing the event data from the plurality of event consumers.

27. (New) A method as recited in claim 25, further comprising:

assigning a plurality of devices to a group, the assigned devices each having a substantially common state as other devices in the group; and

assigning one or more event handling policies to the group, wherein the assigned policies are associated with each of the devices in the group.

28. (New) A method as recited in claim 25, further comprising:

creating an event log, the event log comprising one or more event handling policy.

29. (New) A method as recited in claim 26, wherein the creating comprises merging a plurality of event handling policies to a single combined event handling policy.

30. (New) One or more computer-readable media having stored thereon a computer program that, when executed by one or more processors, performs the process of:

receiving all event data generated by a plurality of event providers in a network and all inquiries requesting the event data from a plurality of event consumers, the event providers and event consumers comprising different components in the network, wherein the event data is represented in a common data format regardless of which event provider generates the event data, and wherein the inquiries comprise the event data subscribed by the plurality of event consumers;

determining, in accordance with one or more event handling policies, whether the event data is subscribed by the plurality of event consumers; and

sending the event data to the plurality of event consumers that subscribe the event data, wherein the event data is represented in the same common data format as it is generated by the plurality of event providers.

31. (New) One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 30, further comprising the process of:

assigning a plurality of devices to a group, the assigned devices each having a substantially common state as other devices in the group; and

assigning one or more event handling policies to the group, wherein the assigned policies are associated with each of the devices in the group.

32. (New) One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 30, further comprising the process of:

creating the one or more event handling policies at least in part on the basis of the inquiries subscribing the event data from the plurality of event consumers.

33. (New) One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 30, further comprising the process of:

creating an event log associated with the group, the event log comprising one or more event handling policies.

34. (New) A system comprising:

a plurality of event providers in a network, the event providers comprising a plurality of different components and generating event data, wherein the event data is represented in a common data format regardless of which event provider generates the event data;

a plurality of event consumers configured to issue inquiries requesting the event data, wherein the inquiries comprise the event data subscribed by the plurality of event consumers; and

a management module configured to receive all the event data from the plurality of event providers and all inquires from the plurality of event consumers, and send, in accordance with one or more event handling policies, the subscribed event data to the one or more of the plurality of event consumers, the management module being coupled to the plurality of event providers and event consumers, wherein the event data to be sent to the plurality of event consumers is represented in the same common data format as it is generated by the plurality of event providers.

35. (New) A system as recited in claim 34, further comprising a plurality of devices, the devices being coupled to the management module.

36. (New) A system as recited in claim 34, wherein the one or more event handling policies identify event data that are subscribed by the plurality of event consumers.

37. (New) A system as recited in claim 35, wherein the plurality of devices are assigned to a group, and one or more event handling policies are assigned to the group.

38. (New) A system as recited in claim 37, wherein the one or more event handling policies assigned to the group are associated with each of the plurality of devices in the group.

39. (New) A system as reciting to claim 34, wherein the one or more event handling policies are created by merging a plurality of event handling policies.

40. (New) A system as recited in claim 34, further comprising:
a database configured to store the event data, the database being coupled to the management module.

41. (New) A system as recited in claim 34, further comprising:
an event log configured to administrate the one or more event handling policies,
the event log being coupled to the management module.